Lovely Strange Dark
SILENT BLUE
BY ANDOU IKORI
CHAPTER 2
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lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

episode. 2

NOW YOU WON'T EVER HAVE TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER.

NOTICE OF REASSIGNMENT

OFFICER KIDO AKE

transferred to the location below.

It's been twenty years, huh...

YOU KNOW, IT'S BECAUSE I'M SINGLE THAT THEY COULD JUST TRANSFER ME LIKE THAT.

BUT THIS IS YOUR FIRST TRIP BACK IN TWO DECADES, RIGHT?

AREN'T YOU HAPPY ABOUT IT, KIDO?

THEY'RE GETTING RID OF ME. NOTHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT.

AND THAT PLACE IS ALREADY...

gone.

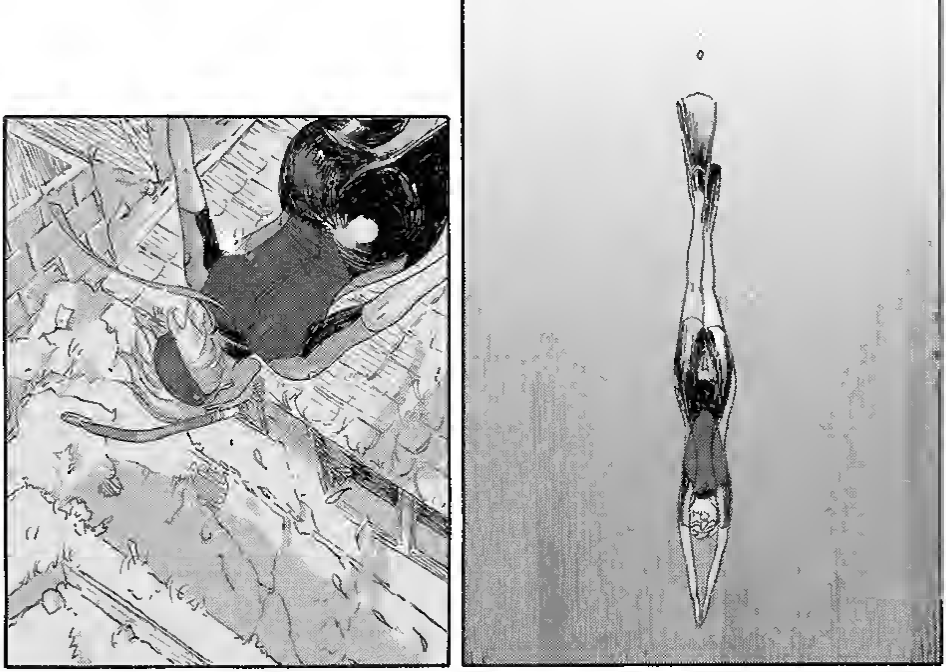
Same as the family I had back then.

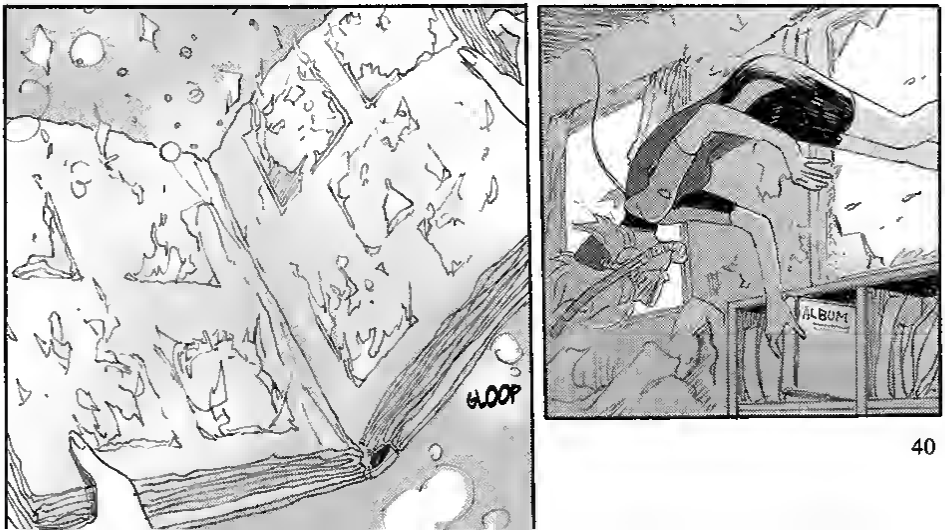
And the town.

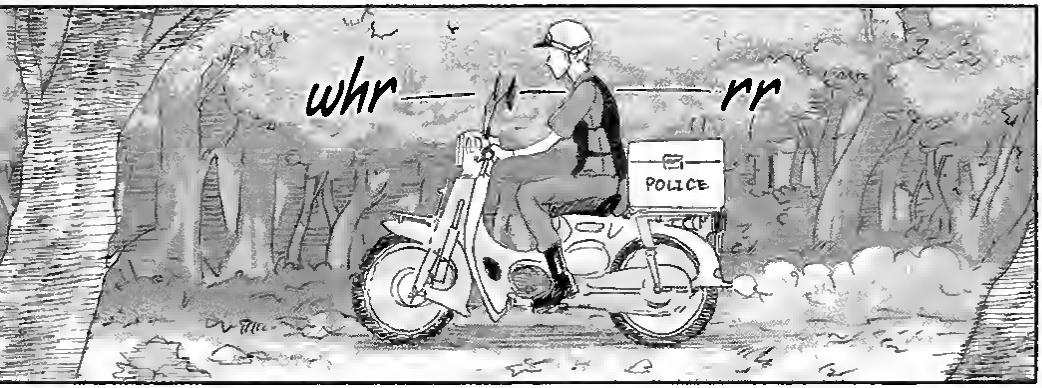
HERE WE GO!

And the people...
clack

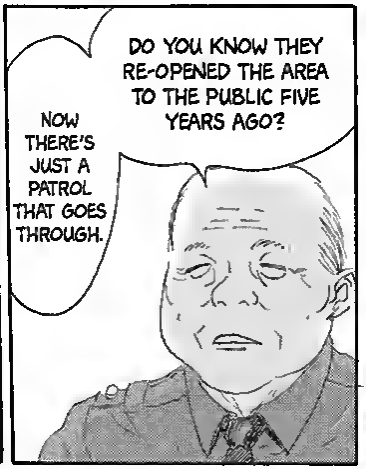
episode.
2

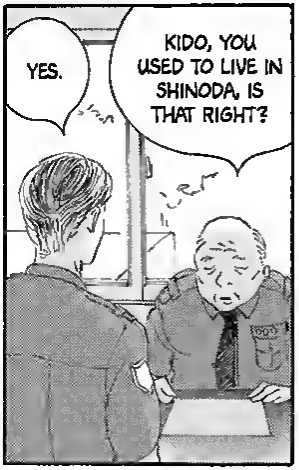



GLOOP
ALBUM


whr
rr
POLICE

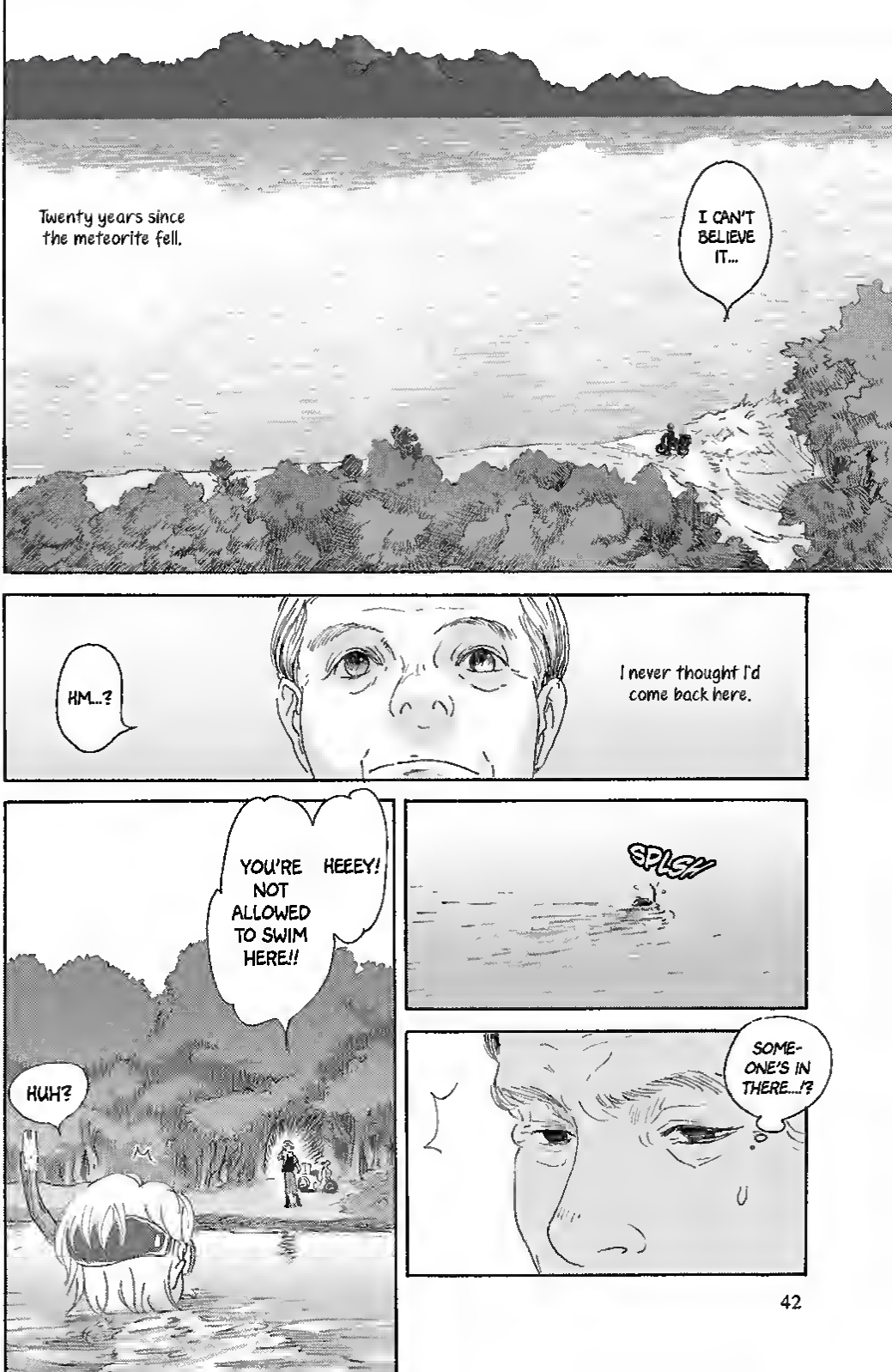
THOUGH
IT'S CALLED THE "TWENTY DAY LAKE" NOW.


DO YOU KNOW THEY RE-OPENED THE AREA TO THE PUBLIC FIVE YEARS AGO?
NOW THERE'S JUST A PATROL THAT GOES THROUGH.

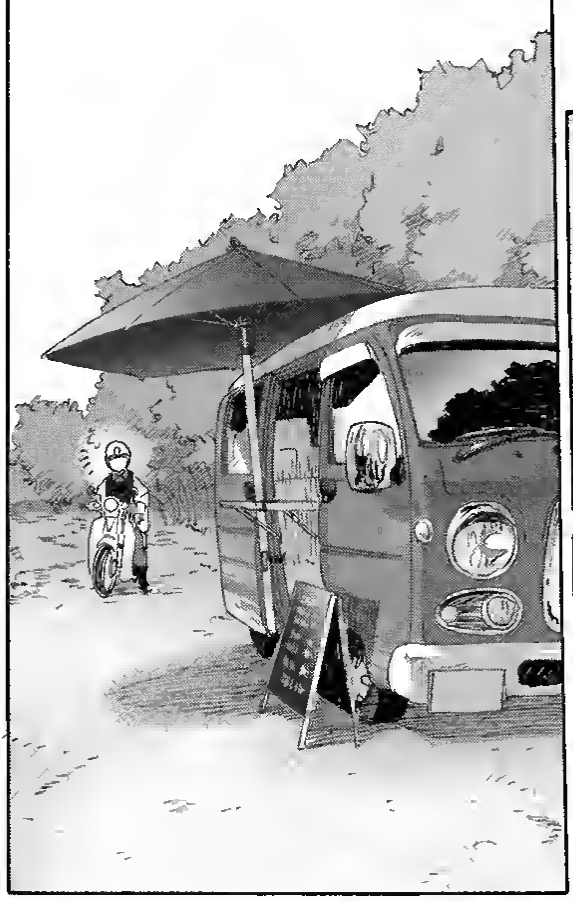

KIDO, YOU USED TO LIVE IN SHINODA, IS THAT RIGHT?
YES.

THIS IS IT...?

SCREE

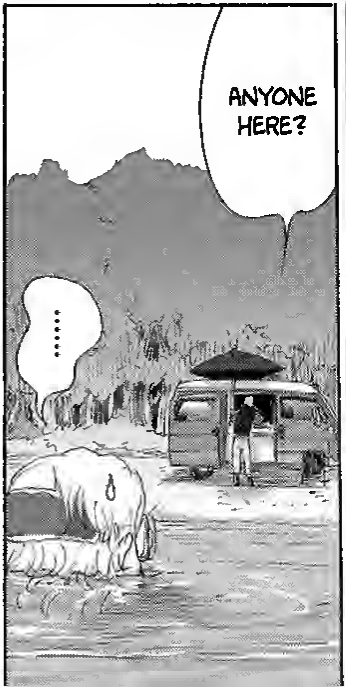

Twenty years since the meteorite fell.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
HM...?
I never thought I'd come back here.
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SWIM HERE!!
HEEEY!
HUH?
SPLSH
SOME-ONE'S IN THERE...!?

POP
AH!
ACK!
Police patrol!
THE WATER'S OFF LIMITS!
COME ON OUT!
whr
rr
HAA!
TH-THAT FAR!?
.....



NOT AGAIN...
plip
POLICE

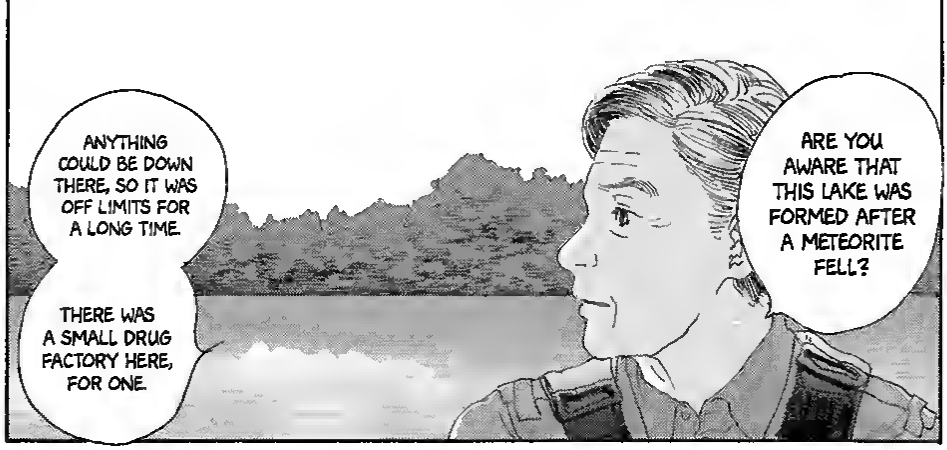
Haa—


ANYONE HERE?
.....

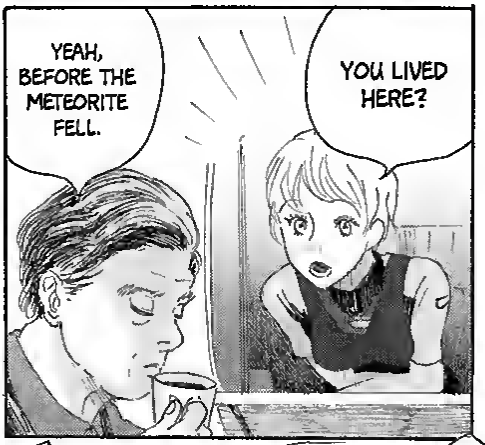
plip

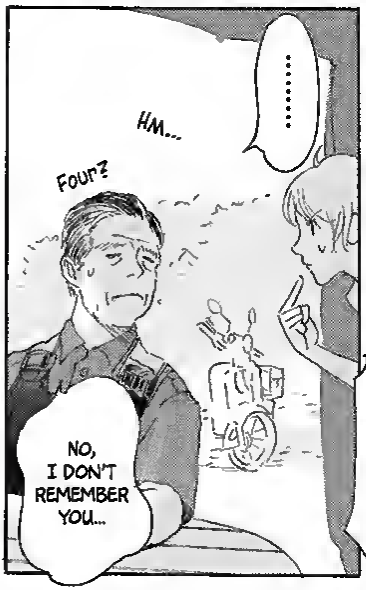
HELLO!
POLICE

WH...
WHAT'LL YOU HAVE...?
SPLSH
.....
THE WATER'S OFF LIMITS.
.....
YOU CAN'T GO IN THE LAKE!
DIVING, SWIMMING, WHATEVER!
POLICE
WHAT'RE YOU DOING WAY OUT HERE?
I WAS DIVING.
YOU WERE SWIMMING.
WORKING A COFFEE TRUCK.


ARE YOU AWARE THAT THIS LAKE WAS FORMED AFTER A METEORITE FELL?
ANYTHING COULD BE DOWN THERE, SO IT WAS OFF LIMITS FOR A LONG TIME.
THERE WAS A SMALL DRUG FACTORY HERE, FOR ONE.

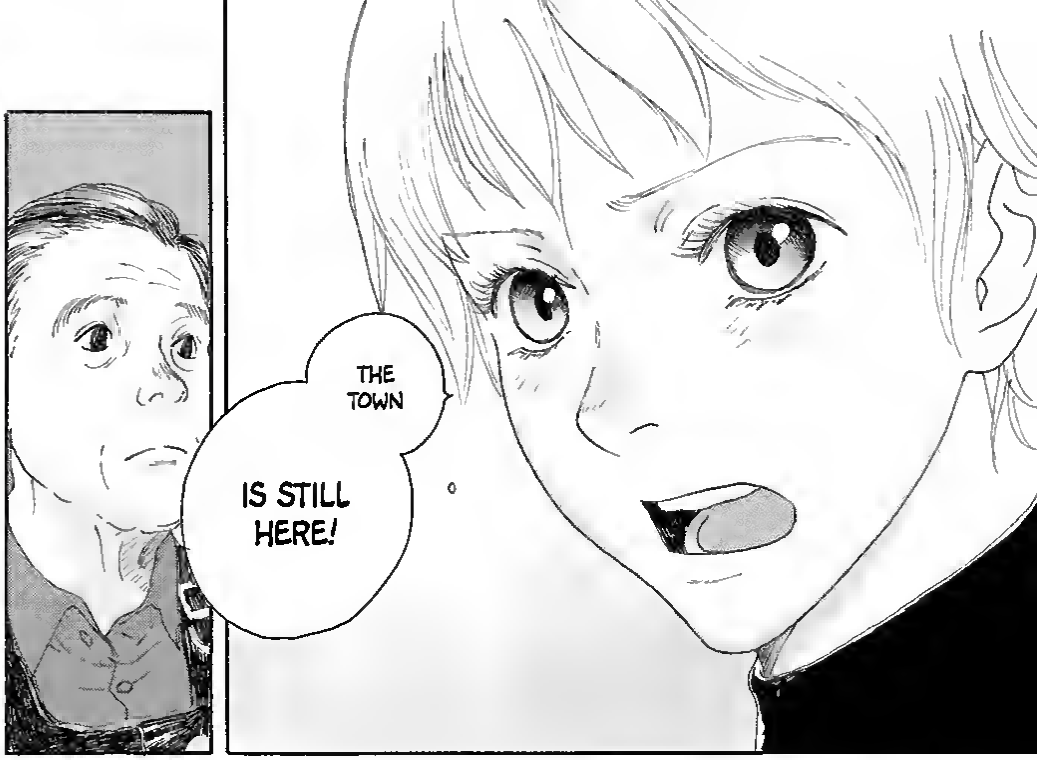
WERE YOU A POLICEMAN BACK THEN, TOO?
YUP.

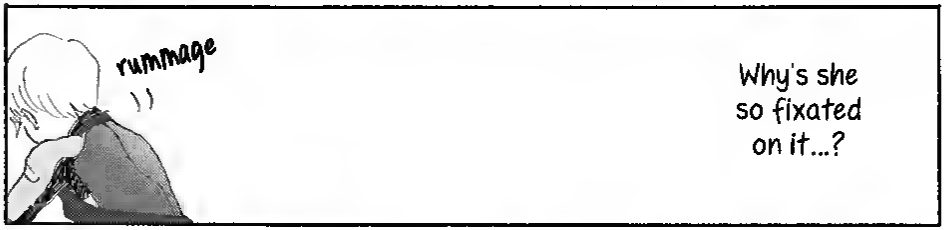

YOU LIVED HERE?
YEAH, BEFORE THE METEORITE FELL.

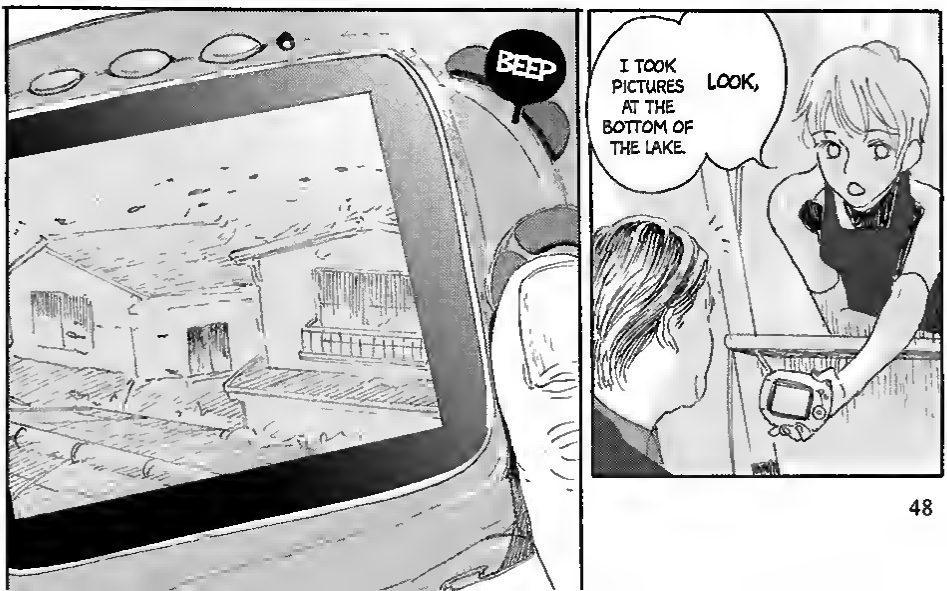

.....
HM...
FOUR?
NO, I DON'T REMEMBER YOU...

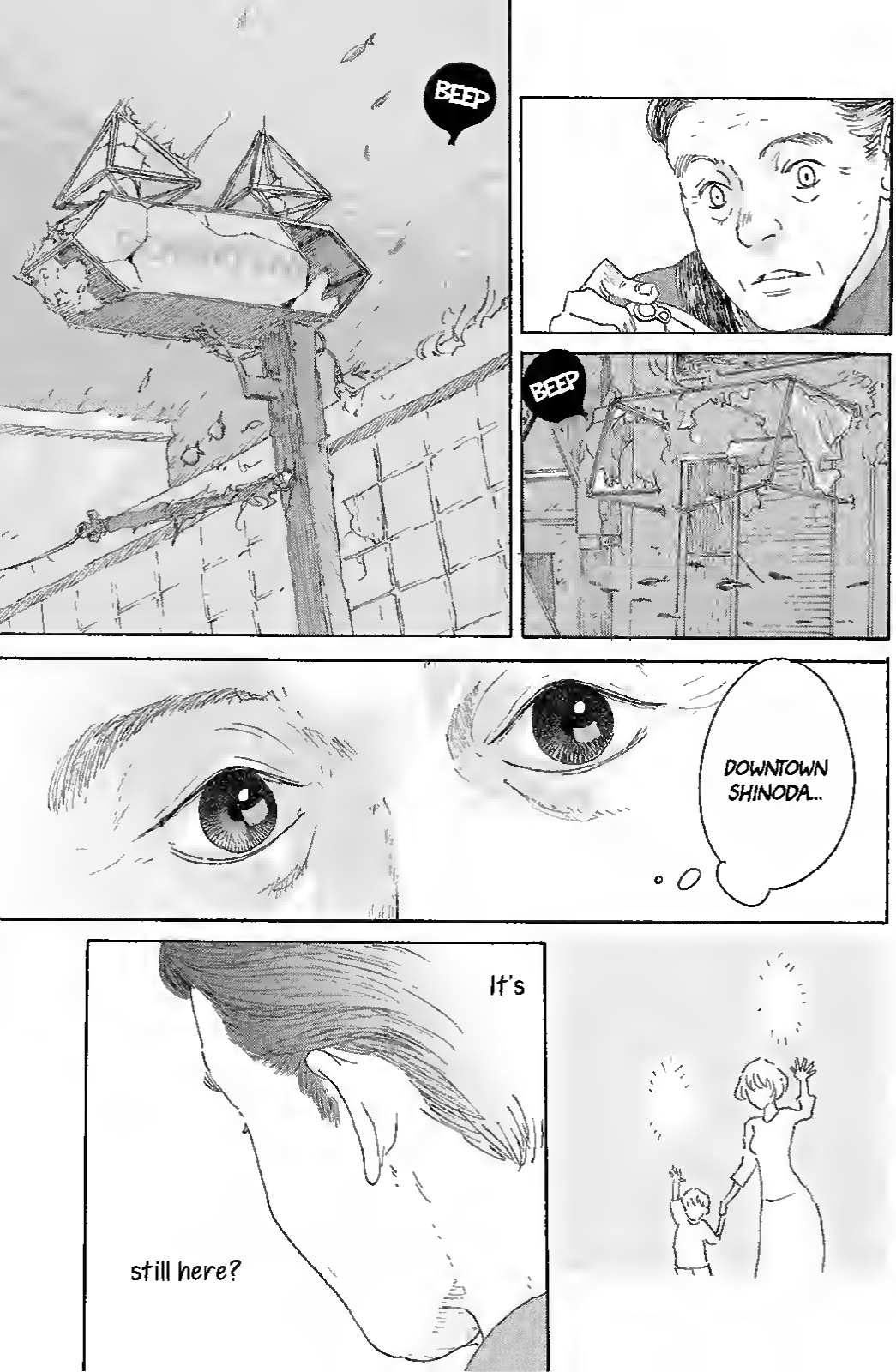
DO-
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
I'M TANAKA AOKO.
I LIVED HERE, BUT I WAS FOUR AT THE TIME.

WHERE-ABOUTS DID YOU LIVE?
FIG-URES...
I ONLY HAVE THE VAGUEST OF MEMORIES OF WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
CAN'T ANSWER THAT ONE...
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T REMEMBER THE METEORITE FALLING, EITHER.
OR ANYTHING BEFORE THAT...
AND MY PARENTS WON'T TELL ME MUCH ABOUT IT...
NOD
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE DIVING HERE?
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT, YOU KNOW.
THERE IS!


THE TOWN
IS STILL HERE!


rummage
Why's she so fixated on it...?

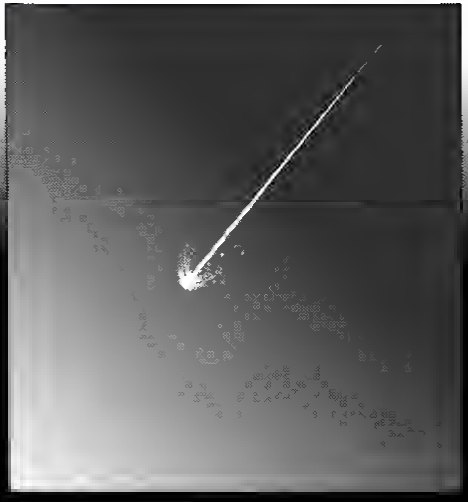

BEEP
I TOOK PICTURES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE.
LOOK,


BEEP
BEEP
DOWNTOWN SHINODA...
It's
still here?

VRM
EVEN IN NORMAL LAKES, THERE'S PLENTY OF DANGER! THE WATER QUALITY, CURRENTS, EVEN ALGAE.
IF I CATCH YOU AT IT AGAIN, I'LL BAR YOU FROM THE AREA! GOT IT!?
REGARDLESS! YOU CAN'T GO IN THE LAKE!

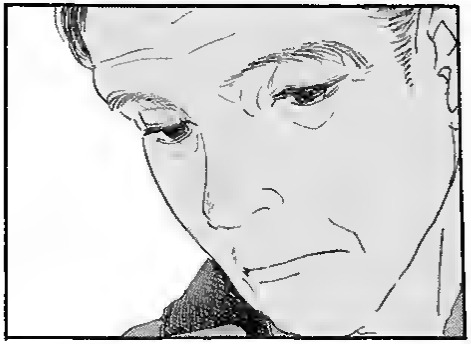
those days
I can never
return to.

I wanted
to forget



The city was cordoned off for the investigation.
Even if we could have returned afterward, it had become a lake.
Everyone just wanted to write it off.
My wife and I wound up penniless in our new town..

If only that rock hadn't fallen...
Divorce Registration
What did she expect me to do? It's not like the meteorite or the lake were my fault.
NOW YOU WON'T EVER HAVE TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER.
we might still be living in those happy days.
If only that rock hadn't fallen,



The town is still here!

slide
HELLO.
SHOCK
rattle
clatter
VRM
H-
HI THERE!
I'LL HAVE AN AMERI-CANO.
I'M NOT IN THE WATER.
No diving for me.

...RIGHT.
THE WATER IS DANGER-OUS, AND NOT JUST IN LAKES.
POLICE
haa
slide
HE ALSO DOES FREE DIVING, AND I TAKE LESSONS WITH HIM SOMETIMES.
YOU SHOULD HAVE HIM TEACH YOU ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE WATER.
THIS IS A GUY I KNOW, A DIVING INSTRUCTOR.
WE USE HIM AT THE STATION TO SET UP PRO-TOCOLS FOR UNDERWATER CASES.
SO, AFTER-WARD ...?
UNTIL YOU DO, NO GOING IN THE WATER.

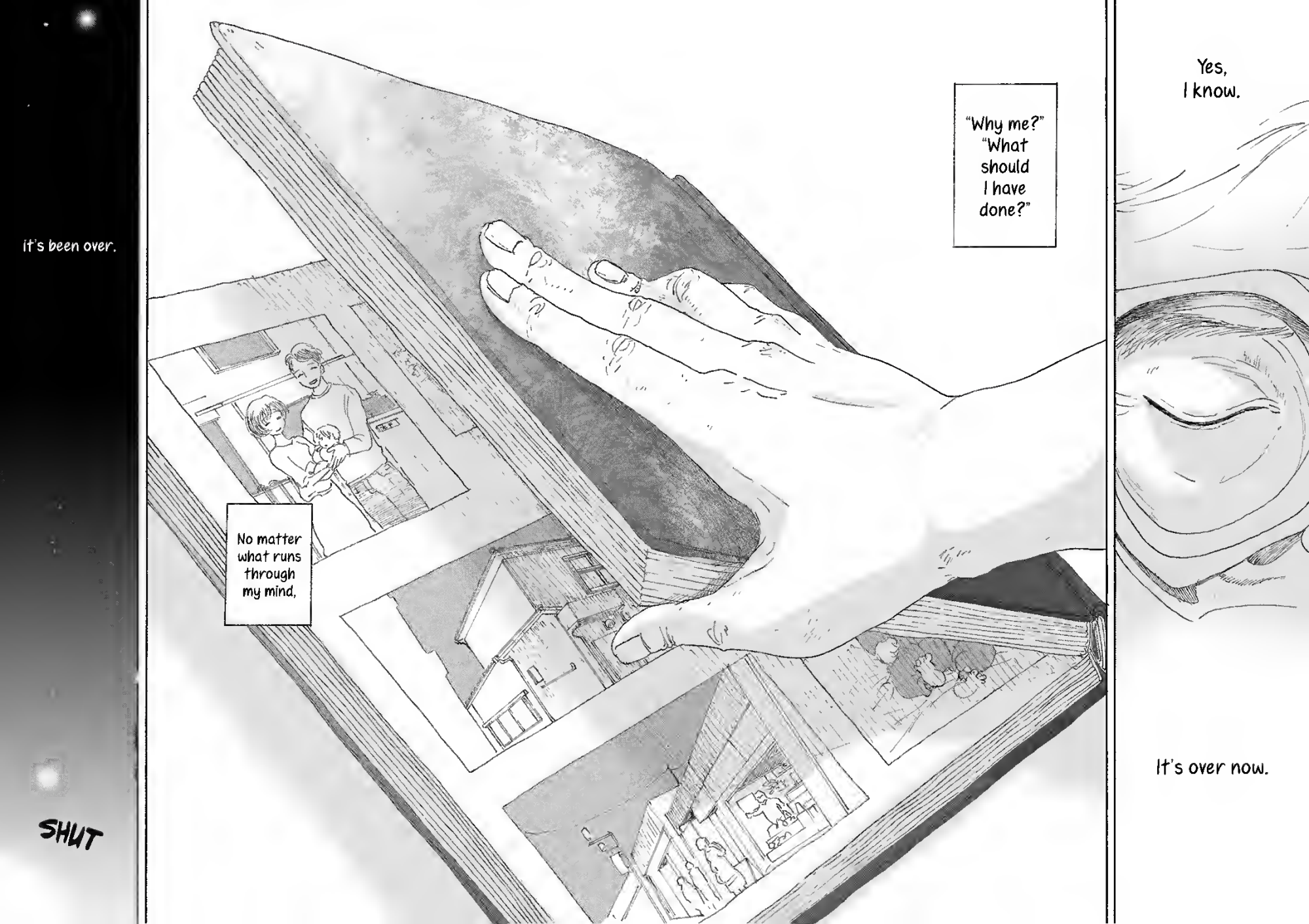
I'D LIKE TO VISIT MY OLD HOME ONE MORE TIME.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE TOWN'S CHANGED QUITE A BIT IN THESE PAST TWENTY YEARS, JUST LIKE I HAVE.
I FIGURE MY OLD PLACE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND WITHOUT SOMEONE TO GUIDE ME.
NOW,
WHERE WOULD I FIND SOMEONE WHO COULD DO THAT *SAFELY*?

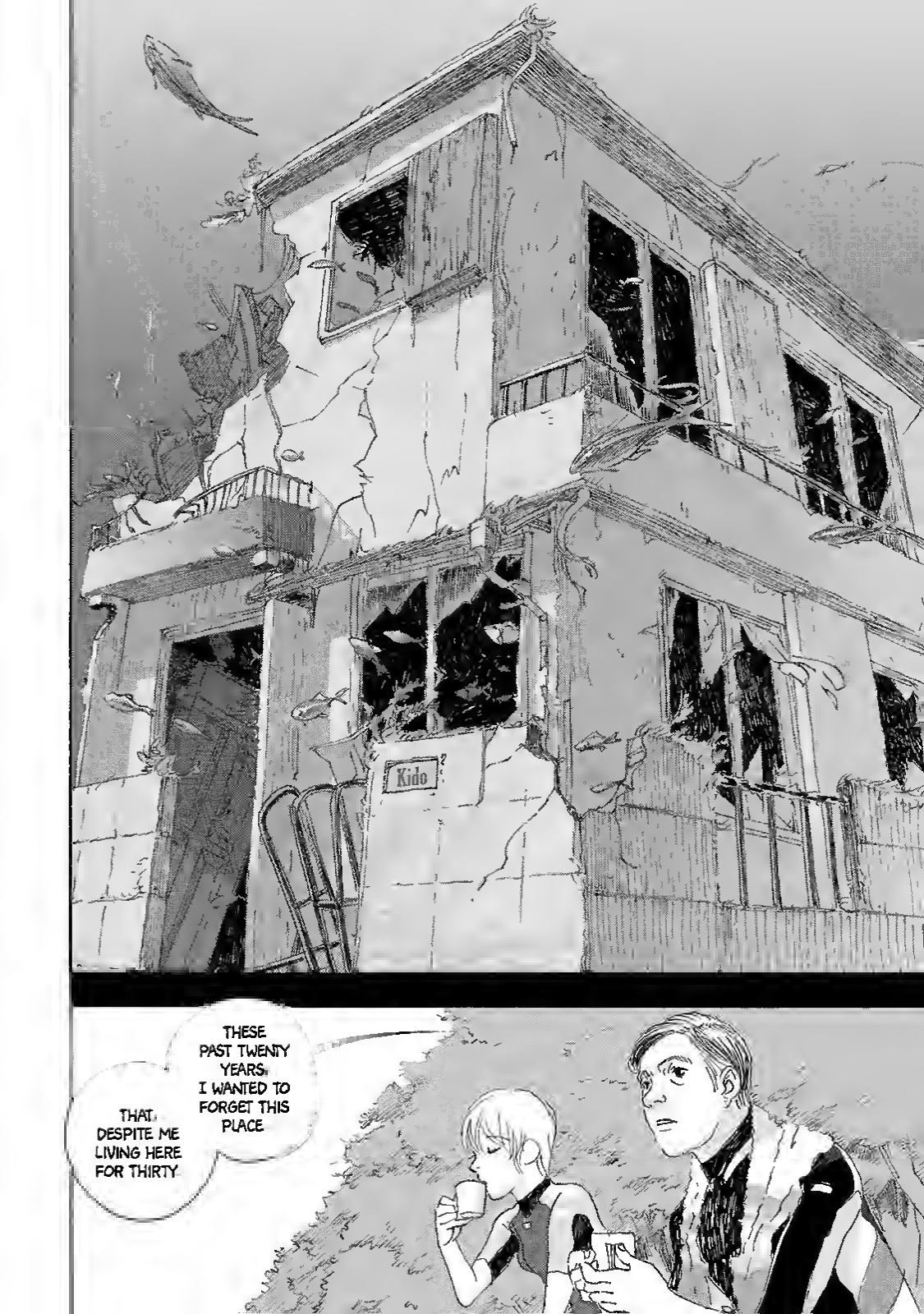
YEAH.
READY TO GO?
KIDO,
GLUB
WELCOME HOME!

The town

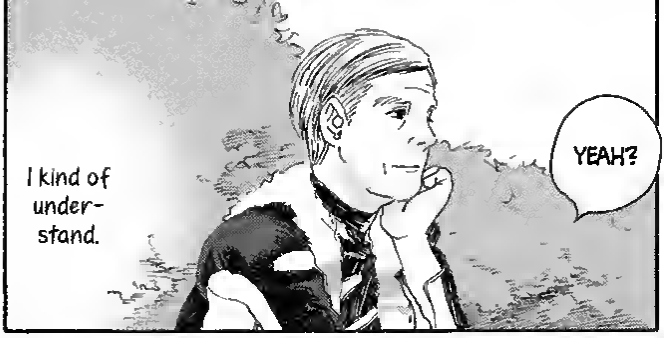
really was
right here.

Hi Daddy.
Oh, you're home early!
収穫祭
Straight from that picture of her...
it was right there.


it's been over.
SHUT
"Why me?" "What should I have done?"
No matter what runs through my mind,
Yes, I know.
It's over now.

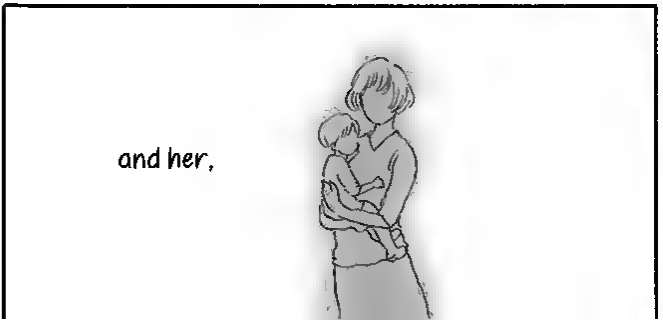

Kido
THAT, DESPITE ME LIVING HERE FOR THIRTY
THESE PAST TWENTY YEARS, I WANTED TO FORGET THIS PLACE

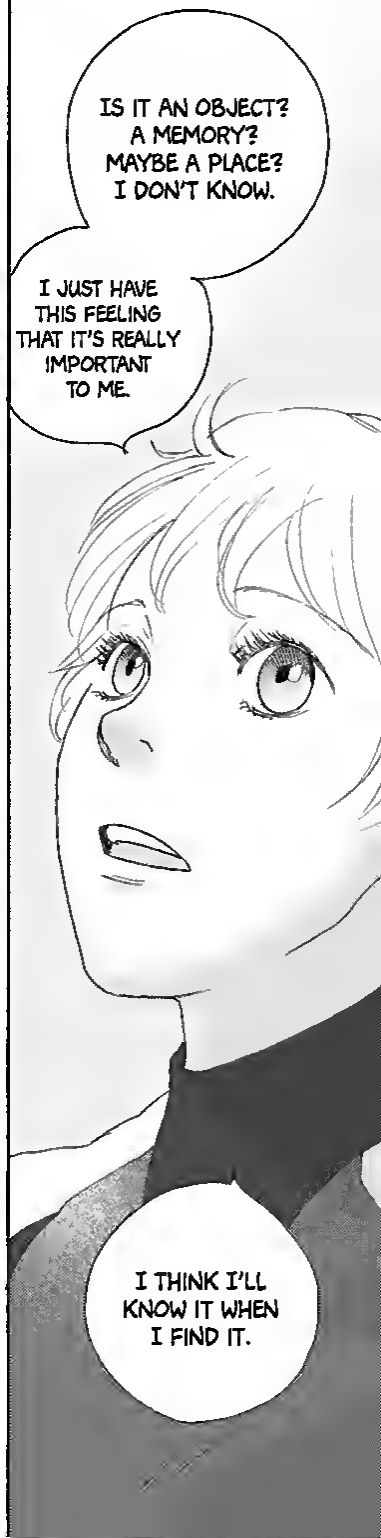
IF YOU WANT TO FORGET SOMETHING,
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO.
RIGHT?
HA HA
GOT ME THERE.
YOU WERE ONLY FOUR, RIGHT?
IT'S NORMAL FOR PEOPLE NOT TO REMEMBER THINGS FROM THAT AGE.
WHY ARE YOU SO STUCK ON THIS?
MM—
I THINK THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT.


I kind of understand.
YEAH?

It just exists in a different time than it did before.
The town isn't gone.

Along with this girl,

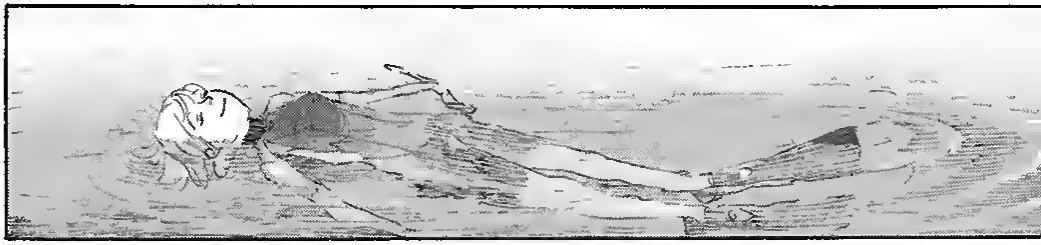

and her,


IS IT AN OBJECT? A MEMORY? MAYBE A PLACE? I DON'T KNOW.
I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING THAT IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.
I THINK I'LL KNOW IT WHEN I FIND IT.

me as well.
and probably
WILL DO!
GIVE ME A CALL RIGHT AWAY IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGER-OUS!
THANK YOU!
I'LL PRAY THAT YOU FIND IT.
SPLOOSH

12

FWAH!



haa